

we have one real strong system of government that has control over...they can legislate as well as do anything that want to and they do not have to face the people at any time. Therefore the judicial system can do almost anything and you noticed that in the way some of the district courts, some of the district courts, not all, you have some good judges and you have got some good judges in all divisions of courts. But the way I think that a lot of your lack of penalties on the criminal element today is because we do not have a strong judicial system that takes these violators off the street and puts them where they belong. You notice in the morning paper there is one fellow for gambling and he spends I don't know how many times, he has been sited, but never has served as I understand it a jail sentence and I guess the last one is being thrown out too. So but that is....that is a minor offense compared to what happens in the state of Nebraska in many cases. We do have some good judges but we have some bad judges. If we could retain the good judges I would be really happy, but the thing is that the people can not get rid of the bad judges. Because they have no vote on the matter.

SPEAKER: Senator R. Lewis.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Mr. President, members of the legislature, I for one of course oppose this court reform bill from the very very beginning and some of my mis-givings have been borne out. We have numerous complaints. In my district, not only only in my district, but in my area these are a matter of record, I have them on file, I would like to know who to or is responsible for the over-all program. I would like to refer some of these complaints to those people. Now, I feel that the whole system is on probation at the moment and especially the judges and I don't see how we can in good conscience set this up on a merit plan at this time.

SPEAKER: Senator Stull.

SENATOR STULL: Mr. President, members of the legislature, I would oppose this bill. I am shown voting for it to get it out on the floor. But I think that it would be wrong to accept this and put it into effect at this time. These judges were elected the last election and I think that the people at that time felt that they would have an opportunity to vote on these judges again two years from this fall and I think that we should really screen these judges a little closer than what we did if we are going to freeze them into the position. Now I realize under the merit plan that you can't remove a judge. That is very, very rare this has happened once in Nebraska. So, in no way would I support this bill to make it effective before the next election. I think that if we are going to freeze them in the people when they choose the judges that and the present term the people should have that understanding that they are voting for them and that they will be frozen in and on the merit plan. Thank you.

SPEAKER: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, most of you remember that it was my amendment that to a LB1032 that provided for the election of the district county judges when the original legislation was passed several years ago. The reason that I put that amendment on that bill at that time was that I felt that it was unfair to allow for the direct